

## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application for the reasons noted hereinafter is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-15, and 20-31 are pending in this application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 4-15, and 20-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hatae et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0193948; hereinafter "Hatae") further in view of Fukuhara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,127,111; hereinafter "Fukuhara"), Long (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,424), and Delean (U.S. Patent No. 5,907,640); and Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hatae, Fukuhara, Long, Delean in view of Engeldrum et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0003903; hereinafter "Engeldrum").

In response to the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-15, and 20-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hatae in view of Fukuhara, Long, and Delean, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection and traverses the rejection as discussed next.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing system including, *inter alia*:

...a client apparatus connected with a communication network, the client apparatus including

storage unit configured to store a reversible code which is obtained by reversibly compressing and coding an original image according to a predetermined coding algorithm having a hierarchy configuration from a reversible unit through a non-reversible unit;

an altering unit configured to generate, from the reversible code, a non-reversible code;

an editing unit configured to perform an editing operation on a non-reversible code image obtained from decoding the non-reversible code, to store the editing operation, and to reflect the editing operation on the reversible code;

a transmission unit configured to transmit either the reversible or the non-reversible code, or an image obtained from decoding the reversible code or the non-reversible code, to a predetermined transmission destination;

a selecting unit configured to selectively perform transmission of the non-reversible code or the reversible code, or an image obtained from decoding the reversible code or the non-reversible code; and

***a determining unit configured to determine whether contents of an operation of editing or modifying image data which are applied to the image data in a form of reversible code of the original image should be performed by the client apparatus or by another external apparatus.***

Pages 3 and 5 of the outstanding Office Action asserts that Delean describes “a determining unit configured to determine whether contents of an operation of editing or modifying image data which are applied to the image data in a form of reversible code of the original image should be performed by the client apparatus or by another external apparatus,” as recited in Claim 1.

In particular, the outstanding Office Action cites column 7, lines 60-64 of Delean, which states “***Alternatively***, the FTTP RIP routine could reside within the image display device, ....” Emphasis added. However, this portion of Delean merely describes an alternative configuration (or such as a possible variant embodiment) for a main configuration. Thus, Delean fails to teach or suggest “a determining unit configured to ***determine whether*** contents of an operation of editing or modifying image data which are applied to the image data in a form of a reversible code of the original image should be performed by the client apparatus ***or*** by another apparatus.” In other words, in Delean, there is no determination of the type of apparatus that will modify the image data.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claim 1 (and all claims depending thereon) patentably distinguishes over Delean.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Hatae, Fukuhara, and Long fail to cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Delean.

Amended independent Claim 7 recites “a determining unit configured to determine whether contents of an operation of editing or modifying image data which are applied to the

image data in a form of reversible code or the original image should be performed by the image forming apparatus or by another external apparatus.” Thus, independent Claim 7 (and all claims depending thereon) are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Amended independent Claims 12 and 20 recite “determining whether contents of an operation of editing or modifying image data which are applied to the image data in a form of reversible code or the original image should be performed by a client apparatus executing said method or by another external apparatus.” Thus, independent Claims 12 and 20 (and all claims depending thereon) are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

Amended independent Claim 24 recites “determining whether contents of an operation of editing or modifying image data which are applied to the image data in a form of reversible code or the original image should be performed by the client apparatus or by another external apparatus.” Thus, independent Claim 24 (and all claims depending thereon) is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

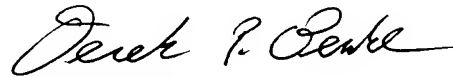
In regard to the rejection of Claim 31, Applicant notes that Claim 31 is dependent on Claim 1 and is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Engeldrum fails to cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Hatae, Fukuhara, Long, and Delean.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding grounds for rejection have been overcome and that Claims 1, 2, 4-15, and 20-31 patentably define over the prior art. Claims 1, 2, 4-15, and 20-31 are therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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